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Ammanford Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's

Report

For 1956.

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"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

Ammanford Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:
Dr. G. M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
Mr. E. V. COLLINS.

Clerical Assistant:
HAZEL DAVIES.

Rodent Control Operator:
Mr. E. DAVIES.

Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

OCTOBER, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report for the year 1956.

I am pleased to be able to report again that it was a good year for Public Health in the Urban Area. There was a slight drop in the population, but the total is still 124 above the 1951 Census figure.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation in July, 1956, to ensure a higher standard in the hygienic treatment of food, by improvements in clean practices in food handling and in the food premises. As a result, I am pleased to be able to report considerable improvement in the district following the action taken by the Public Health Inspector.

With regard to the Clean Air Act, 1956, no action was considered necessary as this is an Anthracite area.

Also during the year, the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, came into force, whereby the designation of Sanitary Inspectors was changed to Public Health Inspectors—a title more applicable to the extended field of Public Health practice to-day.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Committee and Public Health Inspector for his ready co-operation and assistance, and also the other Members of the Staff and the Council for their continued interest and support in the work of the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. HERBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	944 Acres
Population (mid-year, 1956)	6,700
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,010
Number of Houses completed in the Urban during 1956:—	
(a) By the Council	8 houses
(b) By Private Building	10 houses
Rateable Value	£73,694
Net Product of Penny Rate	£281

VITAL STATISTICS:—

Births.—83 Births were registered during the year, compared with 90 last year.

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	43	38	81
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	44	39	83

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford	12.39
Carmarthenshire	13.39
England and Wales	15.6

	M.	F.	Total
Still Births—Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—

Ammanford	23.51
Carmarthenshire	30.17
England and Wales	23.00

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	2	2	4

Deaths under 4 weeks:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	2	1	3

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1956 again was the lowest ever recorded in the Country—23.8 per 1,000 Live Births; the rate for Ammanford was higher, as there were four deaths compared with two in 1955. Three of these deaths occurred within a month of birth, and were due to Congenital Malformations and Prematurity.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Under 1 year ...	48.19	31.11	23.8
Under 4 weeks ...	36.14	24.10	16.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

This year again, there were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Rate per 1,000 total Births ...	0.00	0.8	0.56

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1956:—

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	2	0	2
Cancer	6	5	11
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease ...	3	7	10
Coronary Diseases ...	7	7	14
Heart Diseases	5	9	14
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	2	4
Influenza	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	0	4
Peptic Ulcer	1	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	0	1
Accidents	0	1	1
Other Ill-defined Diseases ...	0	2	2
Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	4
	40	38	78

There were fewer deaths during the year, 78 compared with 109 in 1955. The greatest fall was in the number of deaths from Cancer, which accounted for 14 per cent. of the total deaths compared with over 19 per cent. in 1955. Deaths from Respiratory Disease were 3 per cent. lower, and Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease, 2 per cent. lower, but deaths from all forms of Heart and Circulatory Disease caused 10 per cent. more deaths than in 1955.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Population:—

Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
11.64	13.58	11.7

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Site	Age Groups									
	55–60		60–65		65–70		70–80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lungs and Bronchus			1				1		2	
Stomach ...		1					1	1	1	2
Bladder ...								1		1
Breast ...				1						1
Prostate ...	1						1		2	
Uterus ...						1				1
Other Sites ...					1				1	
Total ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	6	5

Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford.	Carmarthenshire.
1.6	2.5

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Notifications received during 1956 ... Total 56.

Following the small outbreak of Measles at the end of 1955, the disease was still prevalent in the first two months of 1956.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Ammanford		Carmarthenshire
	1955	1956	1955-56
Measles	71	45	577
Scarlet Fever	2	1	127
Whooping Cough ...	1	7	227
Pneumonia	12	1	100
Poliomyelitis	0	0	2
Erysipelas	2	2	12

Food Poisoning.—No cases were reported during the year.

DIPHTHERIA AND IMMUNISATION:—

For the tenth year in succession, no Diphtheria occurred in the Area, but there were 63 cases notified with eight deaths in the whole country.

I quote this figure as a reminded that there is still a possibility for this disease to recur in the area—after an absence of ten years—if the level of immunity is not maintained by parents ensuring that their babies and young children are protected by immunisation.

During the past year most of those immunised received a combined injection protecting them against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The numbers immunised were:—

Under 5 years	82
5-14 years	25
Boosters	2

VACCINATIONS:—

Smallpox.—Vaccinations against this disease is done by the family doctor, and for part of the year some babies were Vaccinated at the Infant Welfare Clinic. Separate figures for the area are not available, but 908 children under one year were Vaccinated in the whole County—estimated as 39.79 per cent. of the registere births for the year.

Poliomyelitis.—During the year Vaccination of children in specified age groups was commenced. The only figures available are those for the whole country.

Children who received the full Course of two Injections	1149
Children who received one Injection ...	57

B.C.G. Vaccination for Tuberculosis.—Also during 1956, Vaccination for school leavers was commenced—this is in addition to the Vaccination of case contacts. The figures for the whole County were:—

Contact Scheme:—	
Number Skin Tested	543
Number found Negative	320
Number Vaccinated	295
School Children Scheme:—	
Number Skin Tested	778
Number found Negative	633
Number Vaccinated	623

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Eighteen cases were notified again this year—one of the male cases was a transfer from another area and another was an old case re-notified.

There were two deaths, both males, suffering from Silico Tuberculosis.

Classification of Cases in Age Groups:—

	Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.		M.	F.
5—10 years	0	2	...	0	1
15—20 years	3	3	...		
20—25 years	1	1	...		
40—50 years	0	2	...		
50—55 years	3	0	...		
60—61 years	1	0	...		
75—80 years	1	0	...		
	9	8			1

Tuberculosis Rates:—

		Case Rate.		Death Rate.
A.U.D.C.	Resp.	2.38	Resp.	0.29
	Non-Resp.	0.15		
C.C.C.	Resp.	0.31	Resp.	0.13
	Non.-Resp.	0.17		

Mass Radiography.—One of the Mobile Vans was stationed in the Town for a week and carried out surveys amongst senior school children, the general population and the local factories. A total of 4,073 persons were examined. Five new cases of Tuberculosis were discovered—a rate of 1.2 per 1,000, which is lower than the average rate for such surveys.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

During the year a number of visits were paid to persons reported to be in need of care and attention. Arrangements were made for some of these to receive Home Help assistance, which

enabled them to remain in their own homes. Others were persuaded to enter Homes for the Aged voluntarily. In no case was it necessary to apply for an Order.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

A number of Overseas Students, holding Scholarships granted by the United Nations Organisations for a Social Science Course at Swansea University, again visited Ammanford. They were here for three weeks prior to commencing their studies. I have received a letter of thanks from the University Organiser, expressing their appreciation.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following Clinics are held at the County Clinic premises in High Street, Ammanford.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Weekly on Thursday morning.

Post Natal—Alternative Thursday afternoons.

Infant Welfare—This Clinic is now held Weekly, on Tuesday afternoons.

Orthopædic—Monday (morning and afternoon).

Chest Clinic at 24, Quay Street—Tuesday mornings.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

National Welfare Foods are distributed at the Wesleyan School Room every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

MIDWIVES.

There are two qualified Midwives practising in the area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A County Ambulance and Car are stationed at the new Ambulance Station in High Street.

Sanitary Administration.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily.

For the past few years the new scheme of re-organisation has been working, and the new Reservoirs ensure a plentiful and regular supply over the whole district.

The Water is sampled by the Loughor Joint Water Board and reports are satisfactory. The entire population is served direct.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, which is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. It is now proposed to construct additional disposal facilities in order to deal with the overloading of the works.

When this work has been done, there is no reason why our Sewers should not cope adequately with the growth of the Town.

One case of flooding was reported in the Domestic Sewerage System, but this was proved to be surcharging by the Trunk Main.

An anti-flood valve is to be fitted on the Sewerage System at a point which will reduce the surcharging of the Sewer.

RIVERS, Etc., POLLUTION.

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	1986
No. of Houses with Closet on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	3
No. of Houses with Closet built on the Conservancy System not able to connect to Sewers	5

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse, when collected, is tipped at Gelligweirdy and Rhydymaerdy. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by burying on the Council tips. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provsion by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, Etc.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their garden, and the Cesspits, being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisance	510
No of Informal Notices served	61
No. of Statutory Notices served	37
No. of Abatement Orders through Magistrates' Court	Nil
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	75
No. of Water Leakage Notices	15
No. of Properties repaired as the result of Official action	98

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Licences now in force. There do not appear to be any suitable sites within the Urban Area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and one Private School, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Council Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the Public Water Mains.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY

MILK.

No. of Dairies in the Urban Area	4
No. of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	4
No. of Inspections made	30
No. of Vehicles inspected	25

Four Retailers sell Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area, and one sells T.T. Milk, also brought into the Area from outside.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is good.

From the date of de-control in July, 1954, one Slaughterhouse has been licensed.

The major portion of the meat consumed in the Town is purchased from the Farmers' Meat Corporation, and the quality is excellent.

FOOD—CLASSIFIED PREMISES.

	No.	Inspections.
Butchers' Shops	9 ...	154
Provision Shops	33 ...	220
Fried Fish Shops	7 ...	26
Ice-cream Premises	15 ...	48
Cafes	7 ...	82
Bakehouses	5 ...	34
Public Houses	13 ...	52
Dairies	4 ...	30
Slaughterhouses	1 ...	151
Clubs and Factory Canteen ...	7 ...	38
Green Grocers and Fishmongers ...	4 ...	47

No. of Notices served *re* Unsatisfactory Conditions ... 6
No of Notices complied with 5
No. of Food Stores provided with Washing Facilities... 12
No. of Food Vans provided with Washing Facilities ... 10

A booklet, described as "Hints for Food Handlers," has been edited and distributed to all engaged in the preparation, handling and sale of food.

All condemned food is collected by the Council's lorry and disposed of by burying on the Council's Tip.

ICE-CREAM HEAT TREATMENT REGULATIONS, 1947-52

Only two firms manufacture and retail. These two firms have the prescribed equipment required by the above Regulations. The remainder sell pre-wrapped from deep freeze cardboard ice containers.

The Food Hygiene Regulations have been brought to the notice of all Food Traders, who are co-operating.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

No. of Carcases inspected:—

Cattle	298
Calves	120
Sheep	912
Pigs	420

CONDEMNATIONS.

Total condemnations of Carcases—Nil.

No. of Beasts' Livers	...	28 Cirrhosis
No. of Sheeps' Livers	...	40 Fluke Infestation
No. of Pigs' heads	...	2 T.B. Submaxillary Gland
No. of Carcases affected with Cysticerci	...	Nil
Three hinds of Beef	...	Bone taint

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of Houses Fumigated after Cases of Infectious Diseases 6

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. of Factories on the Register 53
No. of Inspections made 196

All defects brought to the notice of Factory Owners and Managements were attended to.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Work has continued on the control of the Rat population, the added powers given to Local Authorities, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

Financial assistance is still given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, while this continues, work can be carried out without too great a financial burden being carried by the rates.

Numbers of rats are destroyed by following up complaints received from householders.

During the year a County Committee was set up in Carmarthenshire in order to provide for liaison between the various Authorities.

Your obedient Servants,

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

E. V. COLLINS, P.H.O.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH